

17 June 1982

Dear Mom & Dad,

I'm out at sea tonight after a short (Friday thru Monday) but very enjoyable visit to the French Riviera. The ship anchored off Monaco but Vickie and I chose to stay in Nice. Monaco, which is essentially identical to Monte Carlo, is nothing more than a picturesque harbor with very expensive hotels. We prefer Nice because it is an authentic city with a wide choice of hotels and restaurants as well as other sights. The long boardwalk is ideal for jogging. We stayed in an old but good hotel with large rooms, high ceilings, and a location looking over the beach. We particularly enjoyed the view about 8 PM when the ocean appeared deep blue and the clouds had gone away. There is little nightlife in Nice and most restaurants are empty by 11.

I rented a car and drove to Monaco (about 1 1/2 hour) to go out to the ship on Saturday and Monday mornings. Saturday afternoon we drove down the coast and spent some time in Cannes which is a luxurious resort town. Sunday we drove up into the hills, first through the perfume center of Grasse and then the gorges of the Doup River

with waterfalls, quaint villages, and views of the seaside towns and ocean. Monday we visited the town of Frejus and toured the Roman and Medieval remains.

Of course we had several excellent meals always including a "Picoise" salad which has tuna, anchovy, tomato, and other ingredients according to availability. Monday night we ate in a restaurant with a full view of the sea. After salads we had bouillabaisse (?), a fish soup with three varieties of fish, mussels, shrimp, and tiny crabs. One spreads a tangy mayonnaise on croutons, sprinkles on cheese, and floats them in the soup. Finally, we had a soufflé Grand Marnier.

Soon after I drove back to Monaco and spent a little time in Loeu's Casino waiting for the boat out to the carrier. I ran \$5. up to \$45. in the slots, bought drinks for me and two co-workers, and then lost the rest. Actually, a very successful evening!

As I mentioned on my card we are planning to leave on 18 Sep. By that time I will have spent 180 days at sea and that is enough! I wouldn't mind staying in Europe longer but maybe we can come back. Once we get back to Naples on 29 Jun my schedule is very easy with only three

short at-sea periods left (a total of 12 days). And trips or port visits are planned for London, Trieste, Sicily, Paris, and Spain so my tour will have a good finish and I can feel we have taken full advantage of the opportunity.

I hope we can fly to Seattle on the 18th. Then I, at least, must go to Alexandria on the 27th to check in at the office and find an apartment unless we decide to evict our renters who still have two years left on their lease. A "military clause" allows us to cancel the lease if we move back to the U.S. Perhaps Vickie will spend more time in Oregon before returning to Virginia. We're both very anxious and excited about seeing everyone and will keep you posted on events.

Love,  
Jim

P.S. I can't wait to start running daily and plan to finish the Marine Marathon in November. If so, it will be the fifth year in a row that I have completed at least one marathon (see reverse).

Date

Location

Nov 78

Wash D.C.

Nov 79

Wash D.C. (you were there)

Oct 80

Athens

Mar 81

London

May 81

Paris